

CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR HORSE OWNERS

YOUR HORSE

- Freeze mark – visible deterrent – a unique number is branded onto your horse either on his withers or shoulder which is permanent. Farmkey offer discounts on a sliding scale if more than one horse is branded at the same time. Worth getting together with your friends or people on the same yard. Some companies offer a discount on the horses insurance if they are freeze marked.
- Microchip – your vet will arrange this for you. Some vets offer to do this when you have your annual flu injections at a discounted rate.
- Post code branded onto hoof – needs to be regularly re-done as the foot grows and is trimmed by the farrier.
- Take photos of your horse from every angle, especially any unusual markings or scars and keep them in a safe place. This will help the police if your horse is stolen.
- Make sure you have your horses passport with you every time you transport your horse, even if it is only for a short distance and that it is up to date. Keep a photocopy of it at home in a safe place in case you lose it or it is stolen so that you have all the relevant details to contact the society that issued it to you.

TACK

- Leather stamp – stamp your post code and number/first two letters if a name of your home on your saddle. Kits can be purchased to do it yourself, some saddlers also offer this service. Bridles are stamped on the underside of the headpiece.
- Engraved – engrave your postcode onto the stirrup bar.
- Smartwater – kit is £17.50 from NHW and the police, mark on your saddles where you don't touch regularly. Keep a log of where it is marked with the smartwater pack in case of a theft.
- Microchip – some saddlers offer this service. Farmkey also offer this service which is called Micromark.
- Keep an inventory of all your tack and keep it updated. Make a note of where it is security marked.
- Take photos of your tack, especially any unusual marks or differentiating features and keep in a safe place. This will help the police identify your tack if it is stolen.

TRAILER/HORSE BOX

- Paint your vehicle registration on the roof of your vehicle.
- Farmkey offer a service where you can buy a kit that provides a unique number to put on the roof which they also register.
- Record all relevant numbers, e.g. chassis etc

- Take photo from all angles, keep in a safe place to help in the police identify the vehicle if it is stolen.
- Ensure the area you keep your tack in is secure at all times even if the ramp is down.
- Fit additional locks and alarms if necessary.
- Be on your guard at all times, especially if you are at a show or horse sale.
- Put notices on your windows, partitions and ramp that your horse and tack is security coded.

GENERAL ITEMS

- Rugs, brushes, yard utensils – post code it. Visible marking is the best deterrent.
- Again take photos if the item is valuable.
- Keep an inventory.

FIELD AND YARD SECURITY

- Turn gate hinges upside down and weld if necessary.
- Lock gates at all times.
- Check hedges and fencing every day – thieves have been known to make a hole in the hedge to take the horse later and just put the branches back so that you can not see what they have done until it is too late.
- Prikka strips are available from NHW to put on fences and gates to deter people from climbing over.
- Put signs up saying you have security systems in place – that your horse and tack is security marked.
- Look at locks, alarms and CCTV if necessary. Use sensor lights low level lighting at night.
- Visit your yard and field at different times.
- Always lock your car when visiting your yard.
- If you go to your yard or field on your own make sure you have a mobile phone with you and someone knows where you are and what time you expect to be back.
- Take down the registration of suspicious vehicles and report it to the police.
- Ask anyone you don't know who is on your yard or property who they are and what their purpose is – if you are concerned call the police.

MAKE YOURSELF A MEMBER OF HORSEWATCH

BE AWARE OF EQUINE CRIMES IN YOUR AREA